
New Freeman of Dover...



Terry Sutton MBE



by Alan Lee

On Thursday 19th May 2011 in the Dover Town Hall Terry Sutton was honoured by the Dover Town Council when he was invested as the latest Freeman of Dover. This was in recognition of his commitment and his many years of work for the community.



Terry Sutton

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Terry has led a full life and has always had a strong interest in the town. It would be impossible to mention all he has achieved or done, so I will attempt only to highlight a part of it.

He was born in Dover on the 26th March 1929 in Buckland Avenue. He attended Barton Road

Terry and his wife Danielle live in Whitfield. They have been happily married since their wedding on 24th September 1971 and have a daughter Joséphine who is married to Simon.

His investiture when he received his MBE from H.M. Queen Elizabeth II took place on Tuesday 26th March 1991 at Buckingham Palace. I am not sure if it was just a coincidence or by grand design but that was also his 62nd birthday.

One of our longest serving members Terry has been a Vice President of the Society since 1989. Over many years he has helped to raise the profile of the Society and has worked hard to further our aims. In 1994 he became our Media and Press Secretary, a post he still holds today. Between April 1999 and April 2001 he was Vice Chairman, then until April 2004 the Chairman.

School then the Dover County School - now Dover Grammar School for Boys.

During WWII, between 1940 and 1944, along with many others he was evacuated and after a couple of moves ended up in Ebbw Vale. First he was billeted with the very strict schoolmaster and his wife - not a happy time. Life improved a great deal when he moved in with the deputy town clerk and his wife - hardly any rules there. He then moved in with an accountant and his wife. It was during his stay here that he found out that his brother Roy had been killed when his aircraft crashed. This was the lowest point of the war for Terry. By Christmas 1944 he had returned to Dover and was very glad to be back at the family home.

Called up for National Service on 15th

June 1947, he first served in Misurata, North Africa then later in the Canal Zone in Egypt. He reached the dizzy heights of Lance Corporal but he was happy to be demobbed on 22nd January 1949.

That same year, against his father's advice, he started as a cub reporter on the Dover Express and East Kent News. He officially retired in 1994 as an associate editor. However, after 62 years with the paper he is still sending in copy as a freelance reporter.

He played as hooker for Dover Rugby club and was also a freelance reporter for Fleet Street.

At various times he has had some interesting jobs and belonged to many varied organisations. Some are listed here:-

Editor of the Saga and the P&O magazines. Executive committee member of the Channel Swimming Association. Helps with the Dover Film Festival, writing and narrating scripts for the films. Founder Director of Dover Town Centre Management Ltd. Founder member and Chairman of the Dover Round Table. Founder member of the League of Friends of Dover Hospitals. Founder member of Dover History Society. Helped to set up the Dover branch of Guide Dogs for the Blind. A member of the New Dover Group. Founder trustee of St Martin's Emmaus when it moved into Archcliffe Fort. Chairman of the White Cliffs Country Tourism Association. A member of the Rotary Club of Dover. Patron of the Roman Painted House.

Trustee of the Dover Patrol Memorial at Leathercote Point. A representative for St. Mary's Church on the Church of England's deanery synod and on Christians Together in Dover and on the parochial church council. Co-editor of the Dover Grammar School old boys' newsletter.

Last but not least Terry has had three books published:

In 2003 *Our Town Dover 1945-2000* with Derek Leach.

In 2008 his autobiography *Mr Dover Reporting*.

In 2010 *Dover in the Second World War* with Derek Leach.

Terry said, "This is, as you can imagine, one of the proudest days of my life. To become an honorary freeman of the town of which I'm so proud is a great honour."

It is fitting that Terry has been rewarded for his many years of devotion to the town.

Congratulations Terry, Freeman of Dover.



Terry and Danielle